

Questions for Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management Nominee

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Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) (CGS §§ [4-65a](#), [4-66](#))

The OPM secretary is responsible for (1) all aspects of state staff planning and analysis for budgeting, management, energy policy, intergovernmental policy, criminal and juvenile justice planning, and program evaluation; (2) maintaining financial records, examining agencies to determine their effectiveness, and recommending ways to improve state agencies; and (3) serving as the employer representative in collective bargaining between the state and most state employee unions.

Questions

1. As OPM secretary, you will serve as the co-chairperson of the Municipal Accountability Review Board (MARB). What was your experience working with MARB as a city finance official? Do you think the board's fiscal oversight powers are adequate? Are there any changes you would propose to board's composition or powers to improve its effectiveness?
2. What are your thoughts on consolidating state agencies? Do you have any specific consolidations in mind at this time?
3. Proponents of the state's new volatility cap and bond lock laws argue that they are important fiscal controls designed to reduce the state's revenue volatility and rebuild the Budget Reserve Fund. Opponents, however, contend that the laws are too restrictive

and could reduce funding for safety net services and other critical investments. What are your views on these laws?

4. The state is facing a significant structural deficit for the coming biennium. What approach will you recommend for closing this deficit? To what extent should the state rely on its Budget Reserve Fund to do so?
5. Do you think cities and towns are doing enough to cut costs by regionalizing services and activities? What role do you think the state should play in encouraging or mandating regionalism?
6. There are certain stakeholders, particularly in the private, nonprofit sector, that are advocating for further privatization of state services. Do you anticipate expanded efforts to privatize government operations? What areas do you believe lend themselves to privatization, and what benefits do you expect?
7. What is your opinion of the state's debt level? How does the administration plan to evaluate bonding proposals for the next two years?
8. The state's unfunded pension liabilities will place increasing pressure on the state budget over the coming years. There are a number of proposals currently under consideration to help address these funding issues, including a proposal to transfer certain state assets and lottery proceeds to the pension systems. How do you plan to vet these proposals?
9. What are OPM's legislative proposals for the 2019 session? Which are the highest priorities?
10. How is the office currently organized? Will its current configuration accomplish your goals for the agency, or do you expect to reorganize responsibilities and functions within OPM?

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